

THE WASHINGTON HERALD

LANSING RESIGNS ON PRESIDENT'S DEMAND ACCUSED OF USURPING EXECUTIVE POWERS

RAILWAY MEN PONDERING ON WILSON'S FIAT

Doors Locked Pending Decision on Proposed Settlement.

SUBSTANCE IS SECRET

Labor Chiefs See President And Receive Written Proposition.

President Wilson's counter proposal to the demands of the railroad brotherhoods for a wage increase was the subject of consideration by representatives of the men at a series of conferences which began shortly after their visit to the White House and which were still in session last night.

The brotherhoods' representatives are not expected to reach a decision before today, and until they do reach a decision and revisit the White House, the President's proposition will not be made public. The only intimation yesterday as to its contents was that it was "based on justice to all interests."

For fifteen minutes this forenoon the President conferred with Timothy Shea, acting president of the Brotherhood of Firemen and Engineers; B. M. Jewell, president of the railway department of the American Federation of Labor, and E. J. Manion, president of the Order of Railway Telegraphers.

Save for a short conference the

DEFICIT CLOSES NIGHT SCHOOLS

Vacation Forced on 10,000 Students by Appropriation Delay.

Public night schools in the District, which are being attended by 10,000 pupils, will close Monday, with the exception of business high night school, which will close Tuesday.

Prohibitory statutes prevent the District Commissioners from allowing the schools to continue without appropriations. It was decided late yesterday afternoon by District Auditor Daniel J. Donovan.

The night schools, which are awaiting passage of a deficiency bill providing \$26,000 for carrying on the work until June, must take a "vacation" for a week or ten days, or until the deficiency appropriation is passed, the Commissioners stated last night after a conference with the auditor.

"It is deplorable that such action is necessary, but we are confronted with a law which specifically ties our hands," Commissioner Brownlow declared.

Superintendent of Schools Ernest L. Thurston had requested the Commissioners to allow the night schools to continue their sessions, in anticipation of favorable action by Congress on the appropriation measure now before it.

Auditor Donovan pointed out to the Commissioners that the law prohibits accepting services of departments of the government without authorized appropriations being available therefor and provides a fine for violations by officials of the government.

STOCK MAN PREDICTS \$5 BUTTER, \$1 MILK

Butter at \$5 a pound and milk at \$1 a quart is the cheerful prediction of John Bullock, of Black Hills, S. Dak.

Bullock, who is president of the Livestock Growers of the Little Missouri River section, arrived in Washington yesterday to find out what has become of the government's campaign against the high cost of living.

"Cattle, sheep and hogs have dropped rapidly since last August," he said, "and consumers have nothing to look forward to but much higher prices than now prevail."

France Advances Clock Hour to Conserve Light

Paris, Feb. 13.—France will put the clock ahead one hour tomorrow, and the new daylight saving is expected to reduce national expenditures by at least 60,000,000 francs (nearly \$12,000,000). It is calculated France will save 500,000 tons of coal and 100,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity, and 10 per cent of the usual gas production.

Text of Correspondence Between President and Ex-Secretary of State

The White House,
Washington, February 7, 1920.

My dear Mr. Secretary:
Is it true, as I have been told, that during my illness you have frequently called the heads of the executive departments of the government into conference? If it is, I feel it my duty to call your attention to considerations which I do not care to dwell upon until I learn from you yourself that this is the fact. Under our constitutional law and practice, as developed hitherto, no one but the President has the right to summon the heads of the executive departments into conference, and no one but the President and the Congress has the right to ask their views or the views of any one of them on any public question.

I take this matter up with you because in the development of every constitutional system, custom and precedent are of the most serious consequence, and I think we will all agree in desiring not to lead in any wrong direction. I have therefore taken the liberty of writing you to ask you this question, and I am sure you will be glad to answer.

I am happy to learn from your recent note to Mrs. Wilson that your strength is returning.

Cordially and sincerely yours,
WOODROW WILSON.

Hon. Robert Lansing,
Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State,
Washington, February 9, 1920.

My dear Mr. President:
It is true that frequently during your illness I requested the heads of the executive departments of the government to meet for informal conference.

Shortly after you were taken ill in October certain members of the Cabinet, of which I was one, felt that, in view of the fact that we were denied communication with you, it was wise for us to confer informally together on interdepartmental matters and matters as to which action could not be postponed until your medical advisers permitted you to pass upon them. Accordingly I, as the ranking member, requested the members of the Cabinet to assemble for such informal conference; and in view of the mutual benefit derived from the practice was continued. I can assure you that it never for a moment entered my mind that I was acting unconstitutionally or contrary to your wishes, and there certainly was no intention on my part to assume powers and exercise functions which under the Constitution are exclusively confided to the President.

During these troublous times when many difficult and vexatious questions have arisen and when in the circumstances I have been deprived of your guidance and direction, it has been my constant endeavor to carry out your policies as I understood them and to act in all matters as I believed you would wish me to act. If, however, you think that I have failed in my loyalty to you and if you no longer have confidence in me and prefer to have another conduct our foreign affairs, I am of course ready, Mr. President, to relieve you of any embarrassment by placing my resignation in your hands. I am, as always,

Faithfully yours,
ROBERT LANSING.

The White House,
Washington, February 11, 1920.

My dear Mr. Secretary:
I am very much disappointed by your letter of February 9 in reply to mine asking about the so-called Cabinet meetings. You kindly explain the motives of those meetings and I find nothing in your letter which justifies your assumption of Presidential authority in such a matter. You say you "felt that, in view of the fact that you were denied communication with me, it was wise to confer informally together on interdepartmental matters and matters as to which action could not be postponed until my medical advisers permitted me to be seen and consulted, but I have to remind you, Mr. Secretary, that no action could be taken without me by the Cabinet, and therefore there could have been no disadvantage in awaiting action with regard to matters concerning which action could not have been taken without me.

This affair, Mr. Secretary, only deepens a feeling that was growing upon me. While we were still in Paris, I felt, and have felt increasingly ever since, that you accepted my guidance and direction on questions with regard to which I had to instruct you only with increasing reluctance, and since my return to Washington I have been struck by the number of matters in which you have apparently tried to forestall my judgment by formulating action and merely asking my approval when it was impossible for me to form an independent judgment because I had not had an opportunity to examine the circumstances with any degree of independence.

I, therefore, feel that I must frankly take advantage of your kind suggestion that if I should prefer to have another to conduct our foreign affairs you are ready to relieve me of any embarrassment by placing your resignation in my hands, for I must say that it would relieve me of embarrassment, Mr. Secretary, the embarrassment of feeling your reluctance and divergence of judgment, if you would give your present office up and afford me an opportunity to select someone whose mind would more willingly go along with mine.

I need not tell you with what reluctance I take advantage of your suggestion, or that I do so with the kindest feeling. In matters of transcendent importance like this the only wise course is a course of perfect candor, where personal feeling is as much as possible left out of the reckoning.

Very sincerely yours,
WOODROW WILSON.

Hon. Robert Lansing,
Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State,
Washington, February 12, 1920.

My dear Mr. President:
I wish to thank you sincerely for your candid letter of the 11th in which you state that my resignation would be acceptable to you, since it relieves me of the responsibility for action which I have been contemplating and which I can now take without hesitation as it meets your wishes.

I have the honor, therefore, to tender you my resignation as Secretary of State, the same to take effect at your convenience. In thus severing our official association I feel, Mr. President, that I should make the following statement which I had prepared recently and which will show you that I have not been unmindful of the continuance of our present relations was impossible and that I realized that it was clearly my duty to bring them to an end at the earliest moment compatible with the public interest.

Ever since January, 1919, I have been conscious of the fact that you no longer were disposed to welcome my advice in matters pertaining to the negotiations in Paris, to our foreign service, or to international affairs in general. Holding these views I would, if I had consulted my personal inclination alone, have resigned as Secretary of State and as a Commissioner to Negotiate Peace. I felt, however, that such a step might have been misinterpreted both at home and abroad, and that it was my duty to cause you no embarrassment in carrying forward the great task in which you were then engaged. Possibly I erred in this, but if I did it was with the best of motives.

When I returned to Washington in the latter part of July, 1919, my personal wish to resign had not changed, but again I felt that loyalty to you and my duty to the Administration compelled me to defer action as my resignation might have been misconstrued into hostility to the ratification of the treaty of peace or at least into disapproval of your views as to the form of ratification. I, therefore, remained silent, avoiding any comment on the frequent reports that we were not in full agreement. Subsequently your serious illness, during which I have never seen you, imposed upon me the duty—at least I construed it to be my duty—to remain in charge of the Department of State until your health permitted you to assume again full direction of foreign affairs.

Believing that that time had arrived, I had prepared my resignation, when my only doubt as to the propriety of placing it in your hands was removed by your letter indicating that it would be entirely acceptable to you.

I think, Mr. President, in accordance with the frankness which has marked this correspondence and for which I am grateful to you, that I cannot permit to pass unchallenged the imputation that in calling into informal conference the heads of the executive departments I sought to usurp your Presidential authority. I had no such

28 DEMOCRATIC SENATORS SIGN TREATY PLEDGE

Lead by Hitchcock, They Agree to Support Either Of Two Reservations.

CONFIDENT OF FORTY

Irreconcilable Republicans Expected to Join Lodge On Final Vote.

The objection of the administration Senators to the Lodge reservation on Article X and the proposed modification of it were reduced to writing and signed yesterday by twenty-eight Democratic Senators under the leadership of Senator Hitchcock.

The "round robin" pledges the Democrats to support either the Taft reservation or the one which was proposed in the bi-partisan conference.

Senator Hitchcock declared that he was confident at least forty Senators will attach their names to the pledge. This number joined to the fourteen irreconcilables would be sufficient to vote down any proposed modifications of the Lodge reservation, and would bring the final test on the acceptance or rejection of the original Lodge reservation as voted upon last November.

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PANAMA STATE RULER KILLED

Governor of Chiriqui Assassinated by Son of Man Ordered Arrested.

The governor of the province of Chiriqui, Panama, was assassinated Thursday night in the city of Panama. The State Department was advised yesterday. The governor's name was Saturnino Periquit.

The assassin was the son of Federico Sajol, who had been ordered taken to the capital of Chiriqui under arrest. The governor, the new criminal judge and the prosecuting attorney went to Panama several days ago to investigate local conditions.

The governor had ordered Sajol to give bond for some offense, which Sajol refused to do. The governor ordered him placed under arrest.

The order was about to be carried out when the governor was killed, while at dinner. The assassin is in jail, the State Department advised.

Weighed 505 Pounds; Special Casket Is Made

Newark, N. J., Feb. 12.—A special coffin was constructed for the funeral of Mrs. Rose Merola here today. She weighed 505 pounds. The coffin was 6 feet 4 inches long, 26 inches wide and 22 inches deep.

Six professional pallbearers, three piano-movers and three riggers, moved the body, removing a case from a third floor window and lowering the casket with block and tackle.

intention, no such thought. I believed then and I believe now that the conferences, which were held, were for the best interests of your Administration and of the Republic, and that belief was shared by others whom I consulted. I further believe that the conferences were proper and necessary in the circumstances and that I would have been derelict in my duty if I had failed to act as I did.

I also feel, Mr. President, that candor compels me to say that I cannot agree with your statement that I have tried to forestall your judgment in certain cases by formulating action and merely asking your approval when it was impossible for me to form an independent judgment because you had not had an opportunity to examine the circumstances with any degree of independence. I have, it is true, when I thought a case demanded immediate action, advised you what, in my opinion, that action should be, stating at the same time the reasons on which my opinion was based. This I conceived to be a function of the Secretary of State and I have followed the practice for the past four years and a half. I confess that I have been surprised and disappointed at the frequent disapproval of my suggestions, but I have never failed to follow your decisions, however difficult it made the conduct of our foreign affairs.

I need hardly add that I leave the office of Secretary of State with only good will toward you, Mr. President, and with a sense of profound relief.

Forgetting our differences and remembering only your many kindnesses in the past, I have the honor to be, Mr. President,

Sincerely yours,
ROBERT LANSING.

The President,
The White House.

The White House,
Washington, February 13, 1920.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Allow me to acknowledge with appreciation your letter of February 12. It now being evident, Mr. Secretary, that we have both of us felt the embarrassment of our relations with each other, I feel it my duty to accept your suggestion, to take effect at once; at the same time adding that I hope that the future holds for you many successes of the most gratifying sort. My best wishes will always follow you, and it will be a matter of gratification to me always to remember our delightful personal relations.

Sincerely yours,
WOODROW WILSON.

Hon. Robert Lansing,
Secretary of State.

CHIEF RESENTS ATTEMPTS TO "FORESTALL JUDGMENT"

ROBERT LANSING



Comment Heard in Capital On Lansing's Resignation

Comment on the resignation of Robert Lansing as Secretary of State included the following statements made to representatives of The Washington Herald:

Vice President Marshall:
"I have nothing at all to say. It is none of my business."

Senator Gilbert M. Hitchcock, Nebraska, Democrat:
"I am not authorized to make any statement relative to the resignation of Secretary Lansing. I know nothing about the matter further than the fact of his resignation."

Senator William M. Calder, Republican, New York:
"I think that when the American people come to fully appreciate the service Secretary Lansing rendered the nation in the difficult days of the President's illness, the whole country will feel an obligation to him. His going is a distinct loss to the country."

Senator William E. Borah, Idaho, Republican:
"I would not have been surprised if the resignation of Mr. Lansing had taken place some time ago, but I confess my surprise that it took place just at this time and under such circumstances. It was not entirely unexpected to anybody, but then, I don't like to say too much about somebody's family row."

Senator Philander C. Knox, Pennsylvania, Republican:
"It is a personal matter about which I prefer to make no comment."

Senator Claude A. Swanson, Virginia, Democrat:
"The news comes as a surprise to me. Until I have a chance to hear further particulars, I would not like to make any comment."

Representative Stephen G. Porter, chairman of House Committee on Foreign Affairs:
"It is an infernal outrage! Secretary Lansing has loyally subordinated himself to the views of the President and has shown that loyalty by remaining in office and doing his duty to the nation in the face of affronts that he might well have resented. He has given to the Department of State the best efforts of a loyal man of high intelligence, and a thorough grasp of international affairs. It has been known that he had little co-operation from the President, but for him to be thus coldly dismissed is nothing short of a brutal outrage."

Representative W. E. Mason, Illinois, Republican:
"I am not surprised, except that the resignation has been so long deferred, in view of President Wilson's attitude."

Representative Dickinson, Iowa, Republican:
"I consider a great mistake is being made by the administration in allowing a man of Mr. Lansing's ability to go. The Department of State loses a Secretary well versed in its affairs and possessed of much reliable information as to foreign affairs."

Senator Joseph E. Ransdell, Louisiana, Democrat:
"This is indeed news to me. I have not heard even an intimation of Secretary Lansing's resignation in the Senate, and usually such matters are the subject of cloak-room gossip several days before they are made public. I am sorry to hear of this, and think the serious difference shown in the correspondence is unfortunate."

Representative C. B. Hudspeth, Texas, Democrat:
"I have always regarded Mr. Lansing as a very strong man. I am sorry he is going out and hope a man as strong will be appointed as his successor."

Senator Charles L. McNary, Oregon, Republican:
"News of Secretary Lansing's resignation comes as a complete surprise to me. I did not know there was any serious friction between him and President Wilson. The effect on public sentiment is something I would rather not anticipate at this time."

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Summoning Cabinet To Informal Session Big Cause of Break

Called to Account on Charge of Assuming Prerogatives of Nation's Head, Premier Defends Course as in Best Interests of Country, Declares Readiness to Quit Post, and Wilson Accepts Resignation, Effective Today, to End "Embarrassment of Our Recent Relations."

Robert Lansing has resigned as Secretary of State.

Mr. Lansing left office because he was charged by President Wilson with assuming the prerogatives of the Chief Executive during the last four months in calling and presiding over meetings of the Cabinet.

His resignation, tendered in a letter to the President under date of February 12, was accepted by the latter yesterday and became effective at once. Undersecretary of State Frank Polk is the ad interim head of the State Department and may be named as Mr. Lansing's successor.

CORRESPONDENCE MADE PUBLIC.

The entire correspondence between the President and Mr. Lansing was made public last night at the State Department. The letters, because of the gravity of the charge brought against Mr. Lansing by the President, constitute one of the most amazing chapters in the history of an administration of the republic. Never before in the history of the country has a President accused a Secretary of State, the leading officer of the Cabinet, of attempting to usurp Presidential prerogatives.

In his letter tending his resignation, Mr. Lansing said he could not "permit to pass unchallenged the imputation that, in calling into informal conference the heads of the executive departments, I sought to usurp your Presidential authority." He explained that he believed the Cabinet conferences were for the best interests of the administration and of the republic. He also declared that his belief "was shared by others whom I consulted."

Cabinet Members Silent.

Mr. Lansing's declaration that he consulted with others (meaning other members of the Cabinet) before summoning them into conference gave rise to the thought that all members of the Cabinet who participated in the meetings might feel it incumbent upon them to tender their resignations to Mr. Wilson.

Efforts to determine whether or not any of the other members of the President's Cabinet took this view were unavailing last night, as all those approached on the subject, with the exception of Secretary of Labor Wilson, who has been in attendance at all the "outlaw" sessions, preserved silence. All that Secretary Wilson would say (and he would talk only through a third party) was that "he knew nothing whatever of anything pertaining to the entire situation."

Against the view that the President might be tendered a sheaf of resignations, however, was the fact that only a few weeks ago the President appointed Secretary of Agriculture Houston, who was likewise in attendance at the "outlaw" meetings, Secretary of the Treasury to succeed Carter Glass. This action by Mr. Wilson makes it apparent that he believes Mr. Lansing to be the one guilty party, and the one on whom all the responsibility rests.

Knew of No Meetings.

It was recalled that all during the period of the President's seclusion there was an intense desire in Congress to ascertain whether or not he was competent to perform the duties of his office. Before the Senate had acted upon the Fall resolution, requesting the President to withdraw recognition of Mexico, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee sent two of its members—Senator Fall and Hitchcock—to the White House to confer with the President and report back to the committee, ostensibly his views on the Mexican situation, but in reality what was wanted was a report on the President's mental and physical condition.

The President, in his correspondence with Secretary Lansing, not only admits that he did not know what the Cabinet was doing, but charges Secretary Lansing with having usurped some of the prerogatives of the President.

Talk of Investigation.

In view of this admission and charge, there was a good deal of gossip last night to the effect that the Senate might possibly think it advisable to appoint a committee to investigate all the circumstances surrounding the past four months and all the grounds of the charge of usurpation.

To ascertain the possibility of such a step, half a dozen of the leading Republican Senators were communicated with tonight. With an exception or so they were loathe to comment on Mr. Lansing's resignation for publication, but all declared they did not think an inquiry would be undertaken. They took the view that it was now too late for an investigation.

The most surprising feature to the Senators was the President's practical confession of incompetence for a period of four months, during all of which time Cabinet meetings were held almost every week. Another reaction experienced by the Senators was the thought that Mr. Lansing, because of the manner in which he was treated at Paris and since his return to the United States by the President, should have resigned a long time ago.

Interference Considered Unlikely.

On the whole, though, they believed that the difference between Mr. Wilson and the ranking member of his Cabinet were such that they could only be settled privately between the two men, and that the Senate had no right to interfere. Some sympathy was expressed for Mr. Lansing. The correspondence between the President and the Secretary of the State is remarkable for the undercurrent of animosity and bitterness between the two men.

The President has come to a partina of the way with many of his Cabinet officers in the past—indeed, there are today only three men in the Cabinet who were with him when he came into office in 1913—but never before has he, or has a Cabinet officer, dwelt with such malevolent meticulousness on the matters at issue between them.

There is a wealth of material, in the President's letters especially, to show that while the callini of the Cabinet meetings by Mr. Lansing is ostensibly the reason for his banishment, it has merely served as a vehicle for the President's wishes in ridding the Cabinet of the Secretary of State.